

Remarks

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the above amendments and in light of the following remarks and discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-31 are currently pending in the application; Claims 21 and 22 having been amended by way of the present response. Applicants respectfully assert that support for the changes to the claims is self-evident from the originally filed disclosure, including the original claims, and that therefore no new matter has been added.

In the Office Action Claims 21 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,266,506 to Kurz et al.

Initially, Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's allowance of Claims 1-20 and 23-31.

As stated above Claims 21 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kurz. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of the claims be withdrawn for the following reasons.

The present invention is directed to a method of replenishing a developer supply in an image forming apparatus with a developer cartridge (e.g., as recited in independent Claim 21). As recited in the independent claim, the developer cartridge has a rim including an extension of a periphery, the rim including a first face adapted to open a shutter of the image forming apparatus and a second face adapted to close the shutter of the image forming apparatus. The method includes inserting the developer cartridge into the image forming apparatus, rotating the developer cartridge such that the first face of the rim contacts a first portion of the shutter to open the shutter, and rotating the developer cartridge such that the second face of the rim contacts a second portion of the shutter to close the shutter.

Kurz is directed to a toner bottle including a mechanical key. As stated in the portion of Kurz cited in the Office Action, a toner bottle 150 includes a toner bottle nozzle 152 with a

keying feature 154. The keying feature 154 interacts with a receptacle feature 164 of a process cartridge.

Applicants respectfully assert that Kurz does not teach or render obvious, however, the claimed features of rotating a developer cartridge such that a first face of a rim contacts a first portion of a shutter to open the shutter, and rotating the developer cartridge such that a second face of the rim contacts a second portion of the shutter to close the shutter, as recited in independent Claim 21. Specifically, Applicants respectfully assert that Kurz does not show or state rotating the toner bottle 150 such that different faces of the keying feature 154 contact different portions of the receptacle feature 164 to open and close the receptacle feature 164, for example.

Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of independent Claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn, and the allowance of independent Claim 21.

Applicants respectfully assert that Claim 22 is allowable for at least the same reasons as independent Claim 21 from which it depends, as well as for its own features, particularly in combination with the features of the independent claim. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of dependent Claim 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn, and the allowance of dependent Claim 22.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-31 is earnestly solicited.

Application No. 10/715,360
Reply to Office Action of December 3, 2004

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000

Fax: (703) 413 -2220

(OSMMN 06/04)

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Steven P. Weihrouch
Registration No. 32,829
Attorney of Record

Philip J. Hoffmann
Registration No. 46,340

SPW/PH/me

I:\ATTY\PH\23S\232170\PRP AM 12202004.DOC